

Peckham Shed
Anyone Everyone Theatre

Annual report 2009 – 2010

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1. Note from the Chair

We end each year at Peckham Shed reflecting on what we have learnt, how far we have come and what will be our next adventure. This year Peckham Shed has reached more people than ever before, raised its profile to new levels, become an important community resource and taken part in a host of partnership and event opportunities. Under the guidance of Creative Director Lucy Bradley and Associate Director Dani Baker, a fantastic team of volunteers and practitioners bring the sessions to life each week. This unique mix of talent and passion has created an inclusive working practice that is proving successful throughout all aspects of Peckham Shed life.

Through parent and participant consultation we have found that our children and young people are using Peckham Shed to find their own creative voice. The growing numbers, waiting lists and improved attendance is testament to the success of the careful nature in which each participant is supported to develop their individual talents.

This year was our fifth birthday and we are extremely grateful to the volunteers, practitioners, parents, funders and most importantly our fantastic participants who have made Peckham Shed what it is today. We are looking forward to being here for our 10th, 15th... 50th birthday because what is clear after this reflection is that with so much talent and creativity bursting to get out, we are only just getting started!

Chair: Rebecca Cahill

2. Note from the Creative Director

This has been one of the most exciting years in Peckham shed's History. We've gone from Strength to strength and demand for our work and inclusive approach continues to grow.

Our membership is higher than ever and we've been opening up more opportunities to perform and to engage with the creative life of our borough to participants. We've continued to raise our profile throughout the Borough and with our continued relationship with STEP and our annual summer performance at Theatre Peckham, we're continuing to raise aspirations for our young people and develop interest in creating inspiring, inclusive theatre.

This year we've developed new fundraising opportunities which have also helped us to branch out into the community more than ever before. We've continued to develop our relationship with Bredinghurst School and offered their students and staff support through our Accessing Shakespeare project.

Our board has continued to diversify and grow, with new additions which will help to shape and secure the future of our charity – Susanne Richter, a specialist in web communication has joined us and Rob Murphy, a Financial Executive has helped to structure our financial procedures.

Creative Director: Lucy Bradley

3. Inclusive performance festival – Summer 2009

Building on the success of our previous summer performances we wanted to make 2009's show bigger and better than ever before. We wanted to promote inclusive performance more widely and look towards the future for Peckham Shed.

As well as showcasing the talent of our children and youth theatre groups we wanted to build awareness of and excitement about other inclusive companies locally by performing alongside them. We were thrilled to present the work of Corali, a professional dance company made up of adults with learning disabilities. Their beautiful piece 'Chord' fitted brilliantly into our programme and helped inspire our members to begin to see themselves as part of a larger idea and practice in the area. We hope this is the beginning of an ongoing collaboration with Corali.

We showcased for the first time two films made during Peckham Shed creative projects 'Make a choice' and 'Our mark on the world' and presented a first outing of our adult group – which we hope will become a regular part of Peckham Shed's work.

Our youth theatre's 'Tempest' inspired project mixed original music performed live, and a new script which responded to Shakespeare's original. Our children's theatre group performed their piece about an imaginary island *Resnaf duv jibok* which they jointly governed.

The performance festival was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate inclusive performance, we hope to continue to showcase the work of others alongside Peckham Shed in future.

"It was a pleasure to be involved and I look forward to the festival next year."

Sarah Archdeacon Corali

'Yesterday's performance was even better than Wednesday and ended so well too with everyone dancing together. I would have loved to join you in your adult theatre- I am dreaming.' –

Mercy Miller, YT parent

Photos from the Inclusive theatre festival:
Peckham Shed Perform



Coralie Dance Company



4. Celebrating five years of Peckham Shed

In December 2009 we celebrated our fifth anniversary with a bang!

Our young people had requested a special performance which would reflect our past, present and future so as our term draw to an end both our children and youth theatre groups got ready for an extra special performance. Our Youth theatre company were keen to do some singing, so we brought in professional singer Ciara Burrows, to work with the group for some special lessons pulling together songs from Annie and West Side story, alongside songs the group had re-written themselves for previous shows – 'Peckham Hero,' and 'so you think Peckham's really....'

Our children's theatre group created a multi-sensory performance exploring their water-world adventure of Captain Jack and his fishy friends.

The celebration was a great opportunity to bring friends and supporters past, present and future together, to celebrate all that we have achieved so far and the journey ahead.

We were thrilled to have a great audience at Harris Academy and to perform in the main auditorium at the school for the first time, an opportunity our members were massively excited by.



5. Peckham Shed Case Study

Cameron Smith Johnson

Cameron joined Peckham Shed in September 2007 when he was 9 years old and has attended our children's theatre group ever since. Cameron easily made friends – with his love for spider man, chicken and football, his brilliant sense of humour and passion for music and movement. Cameron has performed with us many times over the past 3 years, he's played an angry shop keeper, a super hero and a politician; he's also done plenty of dancing and singing– showing off his break dancing skills whenever he can. Cameron loves performing and is at his happiest on stage.

When he first joined Cameron didn't really communicate vocally very much and could get quite frustrated when trying to express himself. Cameron had been asked to leave other creative groups he'd been part of because they weren't able to provide for him. At Peckham Shed we worked with Cameron's family to understand his frustrations and find solutions to them.

Cameron has grown so much in the time we've known him; his speech has developed hugely, using Makaton in sessions helped him to communicate with our volunteers and other members. Cameron's confidence has dramatically improved, he's developed a real sensitivity and awareness of the group and especially of new members. He's made friends and worked with young people of all ages and of varied abilities. Peckham Shed is a place where he is truly welcomed; where his positivity and creative energy are encouraged and nurtured and he is seen for his abilities rather than his disability. Peckham Shed is a place where Cameron can have fun, can be himself and can make friends, so much so that he never wants to go home!

'Cameron has always loved performing and he has definitely proved to me the benefits of what we do. The second he sees the audience he is so keen to show them everything we have created together- he rushes to the front, face beaming with happiness and always wins over the crowd in seconds!' **Jess Hodge – Peckham Shed long term volunteer**

' When I first went to Peckham Shed, I didn't hold much hope for how long it would last. But they made me feel so at ease and confident that I had finally made the right decision, and we've never looked back. We are so happy there that when its holiday times we are at a loss, we both just love it so much. Thank God for Peckham Shed!' **Barbara Johnson, Cameron's Mum**



6. Volunteer case Study

Quin Golding

Quin has been volunteering with Peckham Shed Since January 2009, initially as a support practitioner with our Youth theatre. Quin has been on an amazing journey during this time and is now a highly skilled inclusive theatre practitioner.

Quin came to Peckham shed with no workshop leading experience, but with a background in drama he was keen to develop his skills in this area. Quin was a committed volunteer but without previous experience, working inclusively proved challenging. He needed to develop his confidence and believe in his own abilities to engage and support all members.

Through regular training opportunities and frequent time for reflection Quin's confidence and understanding grew. In January 2010 he began to take on more responsibility and was mentored to develop as a session leader. This mentorship has proved invaluable to Quin's development:

' When I was leading sessions for the first time and something didn't go to plan, I loved the way that afterwards I could talk through everything. I've always been encouraged to try things that didn't work again'

Through training and mentoring Quin has acquired an increased understanding of inclusion, his confidence as a leader has grown, and he has managed the volunteer team effectively and skilfully.

"...I've noticed the way I explain inclusion and the work we do with new volunteers and parents become much clearer and more articulate. This has been due to the focus on continued reflection and evaluation of the sessions we provide"

He has developed his use of Makaton, his understanding of the different needs of members and his ability to plan inclusive work which can be accessed by everyone.

As he describes "Any game can be inclusive" is a mantra that's stayed with me'



Quin has grown into his role as a session leader and is a creative, sensitive and confident practitioner helping to support members and volunteers to flourish. His involvement in Peckham Shed has also influenced his future choices:

"The experience that I've had with Peckham Shed has help shaped my intentions for the future, I was able to apply for a teaching PGCE and get a place. I wouldn't have been in a position to do that if I hadn't been given the opportunity to lead sessions."

7. Raising our profile

This year has seen Peckham Shed building our profile locally through a series of public events. These have helped to build our membership, to raise necessary funds and build our name as a respected, creative and inclusive local organisation.

In April we hosted an Easter fun day at Bredinghurst School which brought families from the local area along to take part in our Easter egg hunt and creative activities. Over 50 families took part in our first ever dedicated fund raising event and through our incredible bake off, raffle, vintage sale and other activities we managed to raise over £500.



In December 2009 we took up residence at the Herne Tavern over a weekend to run their Christmas grotto. Complete with Father Christmas, Santa's helpers, arts activities and a brilliant Christmas Raffle, the weekend was a great success and helped to raise £300 for Peckham Shed.



8. New ways of raising funds

In March 2009 Peckham Shed joined Just Giving and over the past year we have been able to maximise this tool for new fundraising opportunities.

In July 2009 Thomas Miskin, a local individual from Peckham found us on just giving and decided to do a Triathlon to raise money for us! Not only did he complete it, but he raised close to £1000 for us which he was keen for us to put towards our new website.

In December 2009 Peckham Shed were privileged to be able to raffle off tickets for the X factor live final that had been very kindly donated to the organisation. This was an incredible opportunity and we raised £900 through our online raffle. One lucky winner – Charlotte Morris, was able to attend the live final of the most talked about TV programme of the year.



'My night at the X Factor was completely fabulous. I am still hoarse from all the screaming I did. We had the most amazing seats, just 6 rows back and right behind Cheryl and Simon. It was brilliant from start to finish. So thanks again for the amazing prize. Massively appreciated. Apparently there were 8 million applications for seats to the final, so you did well to get a pair. And I did even better to go. Thank you again.'

Charlotte Morris

9. Funding the talent

Each year the staff and volunteers at Peckham Shed work tirelessly to fundraise for the core funds needed to keep Peckham Shed running. We are committed to remaining accessible and offering our sessions free to those who need them. This year along side community events and promotions we have sought strategic funding from Trusts and Foundations and corporate supporters to allow us to plan effectively. We hope to continue to make long term partnerships with dynamic funders to safeguard our future.

Our Funders

Peckham Shed is hugely grateful to the following for enabling our work to happen through generous grant giving:

Aiming High

Help a London Child

Jack Petchey Foundation

Grass Roots Grants

The Girdlers Foundation

The Newcomen Collett Foundation

Peckham and Nunhead community Council Fund

Peter Minet Trust

St James's Place foundation



Managed by the Community Development Foundation
Funded by the Office of the Third Sector



www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk



ST. JAMES'S PLACE
FOUNDATION

Newcomen Collett Foundation



Peckham Shed would also like to thank our fantastic volunteer practitioners who tirelessly support the participants and staff to create such fantastic sessions. All the individuals who play a part- the parents of our participants, the Board, the staff of the Harris Academy @ Peckham and Bredeinghurst School, The Hearn Tavern, the organisations we partnered with throughout the year including Theatre Peckham, STEP, Capital Community Foundation and Corali.

But most of all we would like to thank our participants of the Youth and Children's theatre for coming each week and being a source of fun and inspiration.